

Horticulture Alert

#01 August 2020

Ivory Coast

Horticulture Alerts identify current challenges and highlight urgent measures facing the Ivory Coast's horticultural sector, based on surveys and focus group discussions involving various partners.

(Photo: Tuo Nahoua)

Alert 1

A decrease in household and operating incomes threatens livelihoods and reduces resilience to future shocks

Alert 2

A lack of both funding and access to financing hinder preparations for production and processing

Alert 3

Reduced access to supplies will lead to a decline in marketable yield over the coming seasons

Alert 4

Decrease in export market demand

Alert 1

Reduced income from the fruit industry threatens livelihoods and reduces resilience to future crises

What is the impact?

- Many subcontractor agreements have been cancelled due to a decrease in exports and the closure of institutions, such as schools and hotels, coupled with an increase in operating costs. This has led to a decrease in agricultural income from the fruit industry.
- Due to limited mobility and a general decline in economic activity, the contribution of non-agricultural household income has also decreased.
- Agricultural households will experience a continuing loss of livelihoods, and are thus obliged to reduce their spending when it comes to food, education and health.
- Resiliency of agricultural holdings is diminished, thus leaving households more vulnerable to crises. This effect could have a continuing impact over subsequent seasons.

What actions are required?

- Targeted support for companies in the development and planning of strategies aimed at overcoming the impact of the pandemic, becoming more competitive in the market and becoming more resilient.
- Identify those subsidies, both financial and material, which are available to producers.
- Guide the relevant parties towards implementing these subsidies.

What stakeholders are involved?

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Businesses in the value chain (including producers, agricultural cooperatives, processors, traders, exporters)
- Professional agricultural organisations in each sector: The Organisation of exporting producers of Bananas, Pineapples, Mangoes and other Ivorian fruits (OBAMCI), The Central Organisation of exporting producers of Pineapples and Bananas of the Ivory Coast (OCAB), The Regional Association of Mango Exporters (Arexma), The Interprofessional Fund for Research and Agricultural Advice (FIRCA), The Federation of Mango Producers of the Ivory Coast (FEPROMACI).
- HortiFresh

Who takes initiative? Who drives action?

- Professional agricultural organisations should take the initiative and provide leadership by sector
- HortiFresh will support the parties concerned

Alert 2

A lack of both funding and access to financing hinder preparations for production and processing

What is the impact?

- It was difficult to access funds during the season.
- Even though production prices did not change this year, exporters delayed payments to smallholders due to cash flow problems, which in turn created cash flow problems for producers.
- Producers should be investing in the maintenance of their orchards, but they are unable to make such investments.
- Cash flow and funding accessibility issues require urgent attention as they delay payments to small-scale producers and make it difficult for companies to finance their operations.
- Lower quality and quantity of fruit as farmers are unable to adequately invest in the maintenance of their orchards.

What actions are required?

- Carry out a study of all financial institutions capable of financing activities in the Ivorian fruit industry. Obtain an overview of their needs and conditions, particularly in light of the pandemic.
- Approach banks (namely, Rabobank) and other institutions to see what options are available for financing businesses and activities in the Ivorian fruit sector.
- Organise a virtual trading platform and invite banks and other financial institutions to better understand the sector, so as to better present their services, support opportunities and conditions.
- Provide loans to assist companies in overcoming the impact of the pandemic.
- Offer a "revolving loan" during the production season.
- Train producers, exporters and input suppliers in how to access bank loans and financial institutions.

What stakeholders are involved?

- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Professional agricultural organisations in each sector
- FIRCA
- Financial institutions
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- HortiFresh

Who takes initiative? Who drives action?

- FIRCA should take the initiative and provide leadership.
- HortiFresh will support the stakeholders.



Women in Korhogo prepare dried mangoes for export
(Photo: Tuo Nahoua)

Alerte 3

Reduced access to supplies will lead to a decline in marketable yield over the coming seasons

What is the impact?

- Input suppliers, particularly those with imported products, waited for requests to arrive before ordering the supplies themselves.
- Producers have experienced a decrease in the availability of supplies. Producers are unable to get timely access to quality supplies. This can lead to a decrease in the quality and quantity of fruit in the next production season and affect the harvest.
- Importing high-quality supplies has presented a challenge since the beginning of the pandemic due to port-based restrictions. Stocks are insufficient.

What actions are required?

- Inform and reassure importers so that they continue to import supplies.
- Assist producers in gaining access to supplies and production technology so that they are able to cultivate produce of a superior quality:
 - Help to connect importers with producers,
 - Show them how to use supplies correctly,
 - Attempt to identify and procure alternative high-quality supplies rather than importing them.
- Facilitate pre-financing for input suppliers, so that they enjoy easier access, and provide a payment system for producers. Encourage banks to support producers by pre-financing supplies and certification.
- Organise B2B (business to business) platforms for promoting supplies.

What stakeholders are involved?

- Importers and suppliers of agricultural supplies
- Professional agricultural organisations in each sector
- Producers
- Exporters
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ship-owners
- HortiFresh

Who takes initiative? Who drives action?

- Agricultural input suppliers should take initiative together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- HortiFresh will support the stakeholders.



Preparation of agricultural supplies for application
(Photo: Konaté Karamoko)

Alert 4

Decrease in export market demand

What is the impact?

- There was a reduction in demand for exported fruit, which reduced income for both exporters and producers. Bottlenecks are mainly related to exports to Europe. There are three main areas of concern when it comes to exporting to Europe: contractual difficulties due to travel restrictions, cash flow difficulties due to the decline in prepayments and closure of the main French markets (namely, Rungis) during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This coincided with the peak in the harvest and sale of mangoes.
- There was a decrease in forex entering the country.
- The pandemic exposed the inherent risks regarding supplying a region.
- There were staff reductions (for example, in treatment and cooling centres).
- It is difficult to comply with all measures for combatting COVID-19, such as reducing the number of employees per packaging facility, social distancing and curfew.

What actions are required?

- Conduct market research to help companies in better focussing their activities and in adapting to market demands.
- Provide support in the diversification of markets. Provide assistance in accessing other markets (namely, in West Africa). Help with enhancing (fruit) trade relations with Morocco.
- Continue to organise B2B activities, connect businesses to CBIs and export markets in Europe, through a trade mission or an online trading platform.
- Train companies in e-commerce and support them in developing their online presence, to increase the overall visibility of Ivorian companies.

What stakeholders are involved?

- Importers and exporters
- International development agencies such as: the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI), the Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC), and the Import Promotion Desk (IPD)
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- State structures such as: the Association for the Promotion of Ivory Coast Exports (APEX-CI), the National Council of Ivory Coast Exports (CNE), the Centre for the Promotion of Ivory Coast Investments (CEPICI), and the General Confederation of Ivory Coast Enterprises (CGEACI)
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Ivory Coast Chamber of Agriculture
- All professional producer organisations by sector
- HortiFresh

Who takes initiative? Who drives action?

- Exporters should take the initiative and provide leadership.
 - HortiFresh will support the stakeholders.
-

Dashboard

Results of the August survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the Ivorian fruit sector. Identifying topics and alerts for the focus group discussion.

- Severe negative impact
- Negative impact
- Slight negative impact
- No impact; business as usual

Details

August | Alerts

Production system

Projected surface area of crops in 2020	■	Alert 3
Availability and access of farmers to (quality) production supplies	■	Alert 3
Availability and access of farmers to liquid assets for pre-financing production	■	Alert 2
Field operations for production	■	
Availability (and cost) of labour for production	■	
Overall cost of crop production	■	
Quantity of products harvested during the last harvest period	■	
Quantity of products that can be harvested in the next season	■	
Post-harvest practices/operations for production	■	
Mobility of farmers to and from points of sale and supply distributors	■	
Sales volumes (at orchards)	■	
Sales prices (orchards output)	■	

Producer organisations

The capacity of producer organisations to provide services	■	
--	---	--

Value chains

Value chain actors to access national markets	■	
Value chain actors to access regional markets	■	
Value chain actors to access international markets	■	Alert 4
Information sharing and coordination of activities between actors in the value chain	■	
Value-added activities	■	
Mobility of actors in the value chain	■	

Services

Availability and access of producers to advisory and information services	■	Alert 3
Availability and access of value chain actors to finance	■	Alert 2

Consumption

Perceived food safety of fruit products	■	
---	---	--

Ecosystems

Public infrastructure relevant to the sector	■	
--	---	--

- Severe negative impact
- Negative impact
- Slight negative impact
- No impact; business as usual

Details

August | Alerts

Communities

Income of agricultural households	■	Alert 1
Income of non-agricultural households	■	Alert 1
Income of workers (and their food expenditure)	■	Alert 1
Income of women compared to men in the sector	■	
Youth engagement in the sector	■	

Coordination

Performance of industry platforms and governing bodies	■	
The stringency of production, processing and marketing standards and practices	■	

Policy and regulation

Government capabilities and services in terms of support for the sector	■	
---	---	--

Investment

Private sector capacity for investment in the industry and development of farms and businesses	■	Alert 2
--	---	---------

Rapid Assessment and Horticultural Alert

In order to avoid a food crisis and famine following the current COVID-19 pandemic, urgent measures are required to address key agricultural challenges, including those identified in the horticultural sector. The rapid assessment survey for the current horticultural alert was carried out in August 2020. This survey included 36 respondents covering 9 stakeholder groups. Fourteen participants from 10 different organisations participated in the group discussions. The frequent repetition of these rapid assessments is envisaged in order to identify the warning signs and to determine any immediate countermeasures. Further information concerning the methodology and phases to follow can be accessed via this [link](#).

Objective

The aim of the horticultural alert is to assess the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the functioning of the horticultural sector. The HortiFresh programme operates in Ghana and Ivory Coast and is a collaboration between the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCDI) and the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV). Concurrently, the impact of COVID-19 on Rwanda's horticultural sector is being assessed under the HortInvest programme. Further information concerning the methodology used in the rapid assessment can be accessed via this [link](#).

Alerts in other sectors

Similar alerts were issued in June and July, and more are expected in September 2020, to address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the functioning of the seed, sesame, potato and fertiliser sectors. Using a similar model in various sectors and countries within a specific time period, facilitates a clear understanding and overview of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on food systems at a national, regional and international level, while providing insight into any immediate and practical measures required to address emerging

issues. Additionally, this provides an overview of the sector model's use as a diagnostic tool for bolstering the strategic development, planning and monitoring of interventions aimed at improving the functioning, resilience and inclusion of specific agricultural sectors and food systems.

Institutional reference

This horticultural alert is the result of a collaborative project that unites experts from the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCDI), which is part of Wageningen University & Research (WUR), and the HortiFresh programme hosted by the SNV and funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Accra, Ghana.

Participating organisations

The present "Ivory Coast: Horticulture Alert" involved representatives of the following organisations in the survey and focus group discussions: FIRCA, CNE, S2ICA, Equatorial Services Sarl, Agro Expertise, Onyx Groupe, Karite, Terres Chaudes, Agricultural Solutions For Africa (ASFA), Cosons Products, Sofa, Sopcopa, Fruignon, Soleil d'Afrique, E2S, Nembel Invest SA, Ranch de Koba, Tropic Mango, Ouattara Trading, Agro Plus, Sopcopa, Itia Sarl, Comptoir d'Élevage du Nord, Unité de Séchage de Mangue de Ouangolodougou (USMO), Yao Tropic, LA & Fruits, COSUCO, COPRAKO, Coop Gninnangnon, Scoops CPPA, Scoops UPFLA, and small-scale, individual producers.

Horticultural alerts are published for several countries and fall under the WCDI Sector Transformation publications.

Team leaders: Coulibaly Moussa, Nigninnin Silue, Adelaide Tetteh, Salome Boyd, Hermine ten Hove, Irene Koomen and Sheila Assibey-Yeboah

Please cite as: Horticulture alert: Ivory Coast #01, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, HortiFresh Programme, 10 september 2020

For further information:

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation
info.cdi@wur.nl | www.wur.eu/wcdi

Projectmanager: Salome Boyd

Email : salome.boyd@wur.nl

HortiFresh programme
www.hortifresh.org

Projectmanager: Coulibaly Moussa

Email : moussacoulibaly@snv.org